

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 SCA-01 PPT-01 RSC-01 /023 W

----- 066623

R 281418Z JAN 75ZDJ CITE RUEHCS 0281633

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 410

USDOC WASHDC UNN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, OCON, EEW, XG, WB, GE

SUBJ: EASTERN EUROPEAN ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL OFFICERS'

CONFERENCE: TRAVEL GUIDELINES

REF: A. STATE 011887; B. STATE 016359 (NOTAL)

C. PRAGUE 0168 (NOTAL); D. BUDAPEST 0195 (NOTAL)

E. VIENNA 0430 & 0514 (NOTAL)

1. AT THE REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT, THE MISSION OFFERS
PARTICIPANTS IN THE FORTHCOMING ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL OFFICERS'
CONFERENCE THE GUIDELINES SET FORTH BELOW FOR TRAVEL TO AND
FROM WEST BERLIN.

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2. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS.

THE U.S. DOES NOT RECOGNIZE THE CLAIM OF THE GDR THAT
THE SOVIET SECTOR OF BERLIN (EAST BERLIN) IS A PART OF THE
GDR. IN TRAVELING IN AND THROUGH THE GDR AND TO EAST
BERLIN, THEREFORE, U.S. OFFICIALS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS
MUST GUARD AGAINST GDR EFFORTS TO TREAT THE DIVIDING LINE
BETWEEN THE EASTERN AND WESTERN SECTORS OF BERLIN AS AN
INTERNATIONAL FRONTIER. CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS SHOULD
NOT ACCEPT GDR VISA WITH OBJECTIONABLY PHRASEOLOGY SUCH AS
"VALID FOR TRAVEL IN THE GDR AND ITS CAPITAL, BERLIN." IN
ADDITION, IN TRAVELING THROUGH THE GDR TO AND FROM WEST BERLIN
THEY SHOULD USE ONLY GDR-WEST BERLIN CHECKPOINTS. NOT REPEAT NOT
EAST BERLIN-WEST BERLIN CHECKPOINTS. THE (THE PLANNED VISIT TO EAST
BERLING DURING THE CONFERENCE WILL BE MADE UNDER STANDARD PROCEDURES
WHICH AVOID GDR STAMPING OF PASSPORTS AT CHECKPOINT
CHARLIE.)

3. TRAVEL BY AIR.

A. TO WEST BERLIN AIRPORTS. LEAST COMPLICATED METHOD OF
TRAVEL IS VIA FLIGHTS TO TEMPELHOF OR TEDEL AIRPORTS IN
WEST BERLIN. NO VISAS ARE REQUIRED. MISSION REGRETS IT
WILL BE UNABLE TO MEET TRAVELERS, WHO ARE ASKED UPON ARRIVAL
TO PROCEED BY TAXI TO HOTEL SCHWEITZER HOF.

B. TO SCHOENEFELD AIRPORT. FOR FLIGHTS TO SCHOENEFELD,
WHICH IS LOCATED OUTSIDE EAST BERLIN IN THE GDR PROPER,
TRANSIT VISAS ARE REQUIRED, VALID FOR ARRIVAL IN THE
GDR AT SCHOENEFELD AIRPORT AND TRAVEL DIRECTLY TO WEST
BERLIN. MISSION OFFICERS ARE UNABLE TO VISIT SCHOENEFELD,
HENCE TRAVLERS ARRIVING THERE SHOULD PROCEED TO WEST
BERLIN BY AIRPORT BUS. OUR INFORMATION IS THAT BUSES LEAVE
SCHOENEFLED EVERY HALD HOUR UNTIL 7:00 P.M. AND HOURLY
THEREAFTER, WITH LAST DEPARTURE AT 11:00 P.M. BUSES ARE
PAINTED RED OR BLUE, HAVE SIGNS READING "INTERFLUG" IN
FRONT WINDOW, BUT ARE NOT OTHERWISE MARKED. TRAVELER
MUST INQUIRE TO BE SURE DESTINATION IS WEST BERLIN RATHER
THAN EAST. ONCE INSIDE WEST BERLIN, BUSES MAKE ONE STOP
AT BELIOS TRAVEL AGENCY, WHICH IS NEARER TO HOTEL
SCHWEITZER HOF, BUT BECAUSE OF GENERAL UNAVAILABILITY
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OF TAXIS OF TELEPHONES THERE TRAVELERS WOULD BE WELL
ADVISED TO STAY WITH BUS TO END OF LINE (FUNKTURN)
WHERE TAXIS ARE PLENTIFUL.

4. TRAVEL BY PRIVATELY OWNED VEHICLE.

A. ROUTING AND VISAS. WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO EVENTUAL RULES
THAT MAY BE ADOPTED AS PART OF A UNIFORM ALLIED TRAVEL
POLICY, THE DEPARTMENT HAS APPROVED USE OF ANY ROUTE FOR

DRIVING TO AND FROM WEST BERLIN, UNDER GDR CONTROLS, BY CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS (OTHER THAN THOSE STATIONED IN THE FRG). WITH OFFICIALS OR DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS-- SUBJECT, OF COURSE, TO CONSIDERATIONS IN PARA 2 ABOVE. IN APPLYING FOR VISAS, TRAVELERS SHOULD INDICATE THE GDR ENTRY AND EXIT POINTS TO BE USED; FOR ALL POV TRAVELERS, EXIT FROM GDR INTO WEST BERLIN AND VICE VERSA WOULD BE AT DREWITZ/DREILINDEN.

B. ACCESS TO WEST BERLIN. ALL AUTOBAHNS TO BERLIN FEED INTO THE "BERLINER RING" SOUTH OF THE CITY. ONCE ON THE RING, TRAVELERS SHOULD AVOID EXITS MARKED "BERLIN HAUPTSTADT DER DDR" ("CAPITAL OF THE GDR") BUT RATHER FOLLOW SIGNS TO "WEST BERLIN VIA DREWITZ." AT DREWITZ, USE REGULAR GDR TRAFFIC LANES, NOT THOSE MARKED FOR ALLIED OR MILITARY TRAFFIC. ONCE INSIDE WEST BERLIN DRIVERS MAY INQUIRE FOR DIRECTIONS TO HOTEL SCHWEITZER HOF. (KITS CONTAINING MAPS ARE BEING POUCED TO PARTICIPANTS WHO HAVE INDICATED INTENTION TO DRIVE.)

5. TRAVEL BY RAIL.

ARRIVAL IN BERLIN BY TRAIN PRESENTS COMPLICATIONS IN THAT THERE IS NO ACCEPTABLE WAY OF HAVING PASSPORTS STAMPED TO SHOW THAT TRAVELER EXITED GDR DURING PERIOD OF CONFERENCE IN WEST BERLIN. LIMITED EXPERIENCE TO DATE HOWEVER SUGGESTS THAT TRAIN TRAVEL IS FEASIBLE PROVIDED DUE CARE IS EXERCISED, THOUGH WE BELIEVE IT SHOULD NOT BE USED BY TRAVELERS WITHOUT DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS. PLEASE OBSERVE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES:

A. BOOK PASSAGE ONLY TO EAST BERLIN AND LEAVE TRAIN THERE (SOME TRAINS FROM EASTERN EUROPEN CONTINUE TO WEST BERLIN, BUT PASSPORTS OF PASSENGERS ARE STAMPED AT INTERNAL SECTOR BOUNDARY). THERE ARE TWO MAIN RAIL TERMINAL POINTS IN EAST BERLIN, THE OSTBAHNHOF (EAST STATION) AND THE FRIEDRICHSTRASSE BAHNHOF.

B. CABLE ARRIVAL DATA INCLUDING, IF KNOWN, EAST BERLIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TERMINAL, TO MISSION, WHICH WILL SEND CAR DRIVEN BY MISSION OFFICER OR U.S. SOLDIER TO ACCOMPANY TRAVELER FROM EAST BERLIN STATION THROUGH CHECKPOINT CHARLIE. REVERSE PROCEDURE WILL BE FOLLWED ON DEPARTURE.

6. EMERGENCY CONTACTS.

IN EVENT OF DIFFICULTIES WHILE TRAVELING IN THE GDR OR IN EAST BERLIN, TELEPHONE EMBASSY BERLIN (2202-741) WHOSE SWITCHBOARD IS MANNED AFTER HOURS BY MSG. EMBASSY ALSO HAS DIRECT OPEN LINE TO MISSION. IN WEST BERLIN, TELEPHONE FOR MISSION CONTROL OFFICER PHILIP J. GRIFFIN IS 819-7654 (OFFICE) OR 801-2993 (HOME). MISSION DUTY OFFICER CAN BE REACHED THROUGH MILITARY CHIEF OPERATOR (030-819-6531).GEORGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WB
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975USBER00162
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: US BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750112/aaaaakof.tel
Line Count: 166
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A.STATE 011887, B.STATE 016359 (NOTAL), C.PRAGUE 0168 (NOTAL), D.BUDAPEST 0195 (NOTAL), E.VIENNA 0430 0514 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 APR 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <16 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EASTERN EUROPEAN ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL OFFICERS' CONFERENCE: TRAVEL GUIDELINES
TAGS: OTRA, OCON, EEWT, XG, GE
To: STATE BELGRADE BONN BUCHAREST BUDAPEST LENINGRAD MOSCOW PRAGUE SOFIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006